

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of continuation applications. Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claim from which it depended. With these amendments, claims 22-23 are pending. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Turning to the Office Action, claims 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,314,823 ("Nakagawa"); claims 22 and 23 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but are allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Without conceding the correctness of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 15 and 20, Applicants have cancelled these claims under the present amendment. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

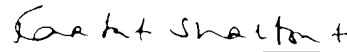
Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claim from which they depended. The claims, therefore, are in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Allowance of the claims and passage of the case to issue are solicited. If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

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Robert Shacter